Repairs and rectification of avionics snags

5197. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only the London station of Air India has avionics stream engineer for carrying out repairs and rectification of avionics snags, while all other outstations get this job carried out by A & C stream engineers;

(b) if so, whether DGCA is aware of these violations which endanger flight safety; and

(c) what action Government propose to curb these violations by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) In addition to London, Avionics Engineers are also posted at Delhi base of Air India to carry out repair and rectification of Avionics snags. Further, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers holding A and C licence are authorised to carry out limited snag rectifications on all aircraft systems including radio/navigation/communication systems.

(b) The certification is done as per accepted norms and no violation is involved.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign investment proposal of Tata Airlines and Singapore Airlines

5198. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Investment Board has cleared the proposed tie-up of Tata Airlines with Singapore Airlines;

(b) if so, whether any opinion has been sought from Air India before the clearance; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions of the collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of shift pattern in Air India Commercial Department

5199. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of the Commercial Department in Air India are now being rostered for five days a week in shifts;

(b) if so, whether they are also being paid some daily allowance together with the introduction of this pattern;

(c) what is the total amount spent by Air India on that count; and

(d) what is the benefit to Air India from the Introduction of the five days shift pattern in Commercial Department in terms of monetary gain in one year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Employees of Commercial Department in Air India Ltd. are being rostered on a five day week shift pattern with effect from 1st August, 1994, in accordance with the record note signed with Air India Employees Guild (AIEG) on 27th July, 1994. Staff are paid meal allowance for working through meal break; expenditure on payment of this allowance so far is approximately Rs. 5.25 lakhs.

(d) Introduction of five day shift pattern has brought out following benefits:—

(1) availability of desired manpower to handle passengers during bunching of flights thereby ensuring optimum utilisation of manpower.

(2) reduction in overtime.

(3) improvement in punctuality.